

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 2007



## Maricopa County Animal Care and Control



# Trailin' Tails Newsletter



One of the many dogs that has passed through MCACC's doors looking for a forever home.

## New Animal Care Center Being Built

After more than 40 years, Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCACC) is getting a new home.

(Considering the County's population has doubled in the last 30 years, the current

facility has failed to keep pace with the growth) The new 54,000 square foot facility is scheduled to open late Spring 2008. The new shelter will allow MCACC to continue to offer a multitude of services including spay-neuter, proactive adoption and educational outreach. It will also have quality space to house and treat many of the abandoned and needy pets from the valley. The current facility can no longer support the services this community has come to expect.



The new West Valley Animal Care Center will have a state-of-the-art medical facility to provide better treatment for the animals; a pet quarantine area for sick animals; "Real Life" rooms that will provide space for potential adopters to interact with the animal they are interested in; a separate

cat sheltering area; a volunteer area; and much more.

MCACC is the second largest county shelter in the country, taking in more than 50,000 animals a year. It also has one of the highest adoption rates in the country with over 10,000 cats and dogs given new homes each year. With the new facility, MCACC will be able to provide more comprehensive, proactive care to the animals of Maricopa County.

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## Pet Tips - Danger in the Desert

The Arizona desert has more varieties of animal life than any other desert on earth. It is important to understand and respect all of these creatures, and practice common sense so they do not injure you or your pets.

Leave wild animals alone. Never allow your dog to run free in the desert; they are often curious and persistent in exploring new plants and animals.

Keep your pets indoors at night. Many desert animals, especially coyotes, are nocturnal and will actively seek out dogs and cats as sources of food.

Make your home uninviting to these animals. Destroying webs, providing adequate fencing, securing trash can lids, limiting the availability of nooks and crannies such as are found in woodpiles, can reduce the attractiveness of your property to wild animals.

Educate yourself about desert life. Sonoran Toads present a real threat to dogs because of their poisonous skin. If swallowed, the result is fatal. The toad evades drought by remaining underground, resurfacing briefly during the monsoon season.

Rattlesnakes do not attack dogs, but they will defend themselves. It is a good idea to leash your dog if out in the desert. Rattlesnakes are most likely encountered during the morning and late afternoon hours.

Scorpions are venomous creatures that emerge at night to hunt insects. If a dog or cat is persistent in sniffing a scorpion, the scorpion will most likely sting. The sting of the small Bark Scorpion is the most serious. You can help your pet avoid these insects by keeping them inside at night and calling an exterminator if you think your house may be infested.



Search the web with [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and money from Yahoo advertisers will go to FACC's – Friends of Animal Care & Control without you spending a dime!



One of the many dogs that have come through our facilities needing a new home.

## Animal First Aid Kit:

First Aid Book

Gauze pads

Bandages

Cotton Tipped Applicators

Muzzle

Cold Pack

Antiseptic Wipes

Disposable Gloves

## Foster Care Helps to Make a Difference

Missy was a 7 year old dog that came in all skin and bones with a tumor on her side. One of MCACC's vet techs saw her huddled in the back of a kennel and felt the urge to take her out. Missy weighed in at 12 pounds that week. She was as sweet as can be, showing off how she could dance on her hind legs and sit pretty and wait for treats. We knew she was special. The vet tech took Missy in as a foster.



Here's Missy two months later! Our vet tech couldn't part with her, either. Missy is now the newest member of the family. If you don't feel like you can adopt, please volunteer to be a foster family. Look at the difference you can make! Contact the Foster Coordinator at 602-526-6279 or email her at [javiles@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:javiles@mail.maricopa.gov).



## Profile of Director Rodrigo Silva

MCACC Director Rodrigo Silva has always had a way of cutting right to the essence of a problem. As a young veterinarian, just out of vet school in Mexico City, Dr. Silva was charged with eliminating the threat of dog rabies in a small, rural Mexican town. Tasked with rounding up the many stray dogs and bringing them in to the Anti-Rabies Center to be euthanized, it wasn't long before he found a better solution.

After bringing in the first truckloads, he found a huge line of local citizens who had come to claim the dogs. Though no one specifically owned them, the people collectively fed the dogs, let them sleep on their patios, and let them play with their children and guard their homes. The dogs were an important part of the community, and were not, as a whole, a threatening presence.

Dr. Silva quickly realized that a different approach to the rabies issue was needed. So he started a rabies vaccination program, persuading pharmaceutical companies to donate the vaccines. Over 500 dogs were vaccinated in three days, as he personally traveled around the area, dispensing the shots himself.

Since then, Dr. Silva has worked in public and animal health care, as well as governmental and non-profit animal care and control, for over 25 years. Just before becoming Director of MCACC, he served for eight years as the Manager of Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) in Tucson. Frustrated at the sheer number of animals coming in, he realized that spaying and neutering was just as, if not more important than getting animals adopted. As a result of some of his initiatives there, PACC eliminated the euthanasia of adoptable pets in December, 2002.

At Maricopa County Animal Care & Control, Dr. Silva's goals are even greater. He wants to eliminate the euthanasia of not only adoptable animals, but also those with treatable and/or manageable illnesses, something he believes is attainable within the next five years.

Toward that end, he is leading MCACC in a three-pronged approach:

- A new foster program by which sick and injured animals can be treated in foster homes, away from the stressful shelter environment, until they are ready to be put up for adoption.
- Reducing the impact of irresponsible pet ownership. By saturating neighborhoods that have a higher incidence of dog bites, higher numbers of unaltered and stray animals, and lower licensing compliance, with culturally-sensitive educational materials, these statistics are improving.
- Increasing the spaying and neutering of pets, through MCACC's mobile Neuter Scooter, and through the new Voucher Program, by which citizens can obtain low-cost or free surgeries for their pets at participating veterinary offices throughout the Valley.

To learn more about how MCACC is working for the pets and people of Maricopa County, and how you can help, please visit [pets.maricopa.gov](http://pets.maricopa.gov).



**Don't I already support Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (MCACC) by paying my taxes?**

The surprising answer to this commonly asked question is yes, AND NO. While MCACC is a Maricopa County agency, just 4% of its \$10,000,000 operating budget comes from Maricopa County generated taxes. The reason for this is that your tax dollars only fund mandated services, like the pickup of stray dogs from your neighborhood and the quarantining of animals that may have rabies. Other services and programs related to pet adoption, spay/neuter and medical treatment, are NOT supported by your tax dollars because they are not mandated services.

While MCACC was originally founded for the purpose of catching and killing stray animals to prevent the spread of rabies and other diseases, the population growth in Maricopa County has resulted in an ever increasing number of healthy and treatable dogs and cats looking to MCACC to find them homes. As a "special revenue fund" within Maricopa County, MCACC is responsible for generating funds for both its mandated and non-mandated services. However, as a County department, MCACC is unable to solicit donations.

By becoming a donor, of your dollars or your time, you can help ensure that MCACC can provide the care and services that will ultimately make it possible for MCACC to reach its goal of eliminating the euthanasia of healthy and treatable pets by 2012.

**YES!**

I want to support the important animal care efforts of MCACC.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply . . .

☐ My donation is enclosed. (Please make checks payable to MCACC)

☐ I am interested in becoming a volunteer.  
erinmaupin@mail.maricopa.gov

☐ Please send me the application for the **FREE** Spay/Neuter Voucher Program msoto@mail.maricopa.gov

You can also donate online at [www.azfaccs.org](http://www.azfaccs.org)

**Rabies Clinic****Specials: \$20****Cat Adoption Center —**

Wed—Fri 11:00—5:00

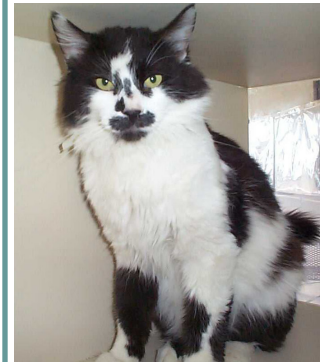
Sat & Sun Noon—4:00

**West and East Shelters**

Sundays Noon—4:00

Mondays 9:00—11:00

Tuesdays 9:00—11:00



One of the many cats MCACC has housed hoping to find a forever home.

# Comfort a homeless pet.

## Maricopa County Animal Care & Control's shelter dogs need beds!



"I would like a warm bed while I am waiting for my forever home. The floor here at the shelter is hard and a Kuranda bed would enable me to have a soft, elevated bed to lie on during long nights. Some of my friends already have a donated bed, but I don't have one yet..."

Kuranda beds improve the lives of shelter dogs by relieving stress, discomfort and improve recovery time of injured animals. Animals also become more adoptable, feel safer and have a better quality of shelter life before being rescued.

**DONATE A BED ONLINE → [www.Kuranda.com](http://www.Kuranda.com)**

Our shelter dogs desperately need beds which they are currently without. Please consider donating one or two! Go to: <http://www.kuranda.com/shop/donate.asp> - then select [Maricopa County Animal Care & Control](http://www.maricopa-county.org/AnimalCare&Control) and order away!

**Spay and neuter your pets**

Get your dogs and cats spayed or neutered! MCACC gets in over 50,000 animals a year, many of them unwanted kittens and puppies. These innocent animals have little chance of survival in our shelters—they need too much care. Please help us stop unnecessary euthanasia—spay and neuter your pets!

## Schedule of Events

- Oct 5—7 Adoption Bus at DOCNA Nat. Championships: 210 E. Centre Avenue, Buckeye
- Oct 12—Adoption Bus at Pet Adoption Day: 3200 N. Central Ave., Suite 400, Phoenix 10 - 4
- Oct 13—Adoption Bus at Glendale Petco: 6090 W. Behrend Dr., Glendale 9—2
- Oct 14—Adoption Bus at BARK Ave (PAC911) 3109 E. McKellips Road, Mesa 10 -3
- Oct 20—Adoption Bus at MC Library Adoptions: Anthem High School 40410 N. Gavilan Peak Parkway, Anthem 10—2
- Oct 21—Adoption Bus at Howl-o-ween Dog Party, Iguana Macks 1371 N. Alma School Road, Chandler 12—2
- Oct 27 & 28 — Adoption Bus at Franciscan Revival (PAC911) 5802 E. Lincoln Dr., Scottsdale 10 -4
- Oct 27—Hero Awards JW Marriott, Desert Ridge, Phoenix 6:00
- Oct 28—Gilbert Family Halloween 1045 E. Juniper Road, Gilbert 5—9

World Rabies Day 2007 was a success! During the week of September 9—14, MCACC gave out 895 free rabies vaccinations to the community.

# OCTOBER 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 DOCNA	6 DOCNA
7 DOCNA	8 Columbus Day	9	10	11	12 Pet Adoption Day	13 Petco
14 BARK Ave.	15	16	17	18	19	20 MC Library
21 Iguana Macks	22	23	24	25	26	27 Franciscan Revival Hero Awards
28 Gilbert Halloween / Franciscan Revival	29	30	31			

**CYNOSPORT® WORLD GAMES 07**  
OCT. 31—NOV. 4 | WESTWORLD OF SCOTTSDALE | ARIZONA

*Dog Agility  
Flying Disc  
Flyball  
Dock Jumping  
Exhibitions and more!*

**CYNOSPORT®**  
WORLD GAMES

**Dog Agility Masters® Team Championship**  
**World Cynosport Flyball Championships**  
**\$10,000 Dog Agility Steeplechase®**  
**World Cynosport Disc Dog Championships**  
**World Cynosport Dock Jumping Championship**  
**20th Anniversary Grand Prix of Dog Agility® World Championships**

MCACC is partnering with Cynosport World Games this year. Come on out and help us raise some money for the animals of Maricopa County Animal Care and Control!

**MARICOPA COUNTY ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL**

### Dog Walkers Club

Join MCACC's Dog Walkers Club today!

Members drop in on weekends to our shelters between the hours of 9am-12pm to walk dogs and socialize cats together with a goal of socializing every adoptable animal.

MCACC receives hundreds of homeless animals everyday! Your help is especially needed to give these animals the attention they deserve.

Make a difference in the lives of countless animals!

Already a MCACC volunteer, then start this weekend by dropping in - no need to sign-up!

Not a MCACC volunteer yet?  
Contact Us Now to Get Started!  
(602) 506-8133  
erinmaupin@mail.maricopa.gov  
Pets.Maricopa.Gov

### Become a Volunteer!

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control's (MCACC) is in need of volunteers to spend valuable time helping homeless and misplaced animals in our community. MCACC receives well over 150 homeless animals each and every day! There is a rewarding and dynamic volunteer experience waiting for you. Whether you are interested in walking dogs, petting kittens, or assisting adoptions there is a way you can help!

Prior to volunteering, you will attend a new volunteer orientation where you learn all about our organization and experience hands-on training with the animals. Find the dates of upcoming orientations on our website, [pets.maricopa.gov](http://pets.maricopa.gov), under the volunteer section or simply call or e-mail our volunteer services division to sign-up!

We thank you for giving the gift of your time and energy to the homeless animals of Maricopa County.

Volunteer Services: (602) 506-8133 / [erinmaupin@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:erinmaupin@mail.maricopa.gov)



MCACC took in over 40,000 dogs last year. Please give one a good home!

## Volunteer Recognition

### Outstanding Adoption Counselors:

**Michelle Babjack & Isaac Moreno**—West Shelter Volunteers since April 28, 2007

Michelle and Isaac came to MCACC to volunteer as a team. There is never a time when this duo is not smiling. They are always here rain or shine on the weekends to make sure we save more lives by finding loving homes for the animals through adoption counseling. They have jointly committed over 200 hours and while juggling full-time careers. Like our staff likes to say They Rock!



**Amber Huston**—East Shelter Volunteer since December 23, 2006



Amber has volunteered over hundreds of hours with MCACC. She constantly provides excellent customer service, adoption counseling skills, and great animal-handling. She is being recognized not only for her high commitment of time and reliability but because staff has continued to send kudos about her life-saving work and excellence in adoption counseling! Amber has single-handedly adopted out over one-hundred animals, saving all their lives. What an accomplishment!

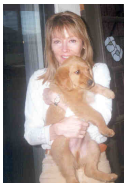
### Outstanding Unique Volunteers:

Marianne Degraeve (volunteer since May 6, 2003), Christine Maxwell (volunteer since August 29, 2006) and Karla Love (volunteer since September 23, 2006) are MCACC's finest volunteer reserve officers. These three are recognized by all MCACC staff as outstanding and have together committed thousands of hours. The three are irreplaceable assets to our organization because of their diligent and hard work as reserve officers; rescuing stray animals off the streets of Maricopa County among many other commendable duties.



### Outstanding New Volunteers:

**Mary Varnas**—East Shelter Volunteer since April 28, 2007



Mary joined MCACC as a new volunteer last April and has already committed over 200 hours. You can find her in the shelter almost everyday or every other day walking dogs or petting cats. Her devotion and loving attention to these animals is priceless. Her work is saving animals by improving their shelter lives and helping them to become more adoptable!

**Tiffany Urban**—West Shelter Volunteer since June 5, 2007

Tiffany is a new volunteer with dreams of becoming a veterinarian. We know she will make an amazing vet because of the exceptional care she continues to give to the shelter animals. Along with her busy life as a student you can find Tiffany sunbathing with the dogs at our West Shelter dog park or trying out her new vet skills in the shelter's clinic. She has already volunteered over 100 hours since starting with us this summer!



MCACC took in over 12,000 cats last year. Please adopt!

## Maddie's Pet Rescue Project in Maricopa County Year Ending Dec. 2006

In order to facilitate the data collection process and assure consistent reporting across agencies, a group of animal welfare industry leaders developed nationally recognized definitions for the health and behavior of dogs and cats, i.e. healthy, treatable and unhealthy/untreatable. Maddie's Fund was a leader in the development of these definitions and has therefore required its grant funded Community Projects, like those in Maricopa County, to adopt and utilize these definitions. As an active member of the Maddie's Pet Rescue and Spay/Neuter Projects, MCACC has followed suit. The definitions, however, are not meant to define the outcome for each animal entrusted to our care. For more information about these definitions, please visit [www.asilomaraccords.org](http://www.asilomaraccords.org).

[www.asilomaraccords.org](http://www.asilomaraccords.org)



MARICOPA COUNTY ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL	Dog	Cat	Total
<b>BEGINNING SHELTER COUNT (January 1, 2006)</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>802</b>
<b>INTAKE (Live Dogs &amp; Cats Only)</b>			
<i>From the Public</i>			
Healthy	5,552	1,571	<b>7,123</b>
Treatable – Rehabilitatable	14,552	5,004	<b>19,556</b>
Treatable – Manageable	8,314	2,691	<b>11,005</b>
Unhealthy & Untreatable	12,562	3,011	<b>15,573</b>
<b>Subtotal Intake from the Public</b>	<b>40,980</b>	<b>12,277</b>	<b>53,257</b>
<i>Incoming Transfers from Organizations within Coalition</i>			
Healthy	0	0	<b>0</b>
Treatable – Rehabilitatable	0	0	<b>0</b>
Treatable – Manageable	0	0	<b>0</b>
Unhealthy & Untreatable	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Subtotal Intake from Incoming Transfers from Orgs within Coalition</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Incoming Transfers from Organizations outside Coalition</i>			
<b>Subtotal Intake from Incoming Transfers from Orgs outside Coalition</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>From Owners/Guardians Requesting Euthanasia</i>			
<b>Subtotal Intake from Owners/Guardians Requesting Euthanasia</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL INTAKE</b>	<b>40,981</b>	<b>12,277</b>	<b>53,258</b>
<b>ADOPTIONS (only dogs and cats adopted by the public)</b>			
Healthy	4,376	1,184	<b>5,560</b>
Treatable – Rehabilitatable	2,883	513	<b>3,396</b>
Treatable – Manageable	479	84	<b>563</b>
Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL ADOPTIONS</b>	<b>7,738</b>	<b>1,781</b>	<b>9,519</b>
<b>OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Organizations within Coalition</b>			
Healthy	519	259	<b>778</b>
Treatable – Rehabilitatable	968	1,294	<b>2,262</b>
Treatable – Manageable	633	222	<b>855</b>
Unhealthy & Untreatable	30	13	<b>43</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Orgs within Coalition</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>1,788</b>	<b>3,938</b>
<b>OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Organizations outside Coalition</b>			
Healthy	214	77	<b>291</b>
Treatable – Rehabilitatable	819	489	<b>1,308</b>
Treatable – Manageable	839	144	<b>983</b>
Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Orgs outside Coalition</b>	<b>1,872</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>2,582</b>
<b>RETURN TO OWNER/GUARDIAN</b>	<b>6,213</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>6,344</b>
<b>DOGS &amp; CATS EUTHANIZED</b>			
Healthy	0	0	<b>0</b>
Treatable – Rehabilitatable	5,640	3,789	<b>9,429</b>
Treatable – Manageable	4,498	1,126	<b>5,624</b>
Unhealthy & Untreatable	12,282	2,581	<b>14,863</b>
<b>TOTAL EUTHANASIA</b>	<b>22,420</b>	<b>7,496</b>	<b>29,916</b>
<b>DIED OR LOST IN SHELTER/CARE</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>247</b>
<b>ENDING SHELTER COUNT (December 31, 2006)</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>1,513</b>



Thanks to the community and Maricopa County Home and Garden Shows. MCACC received over 6200 items and \$5,000 in donations at their August Show!



## Dog with Horrible Injury Got a New Home

There is nothing better than a story with a happy ending. Back in August, A yellow lab mix came through MCACC's doors with one of the worst cases of an embedded collar we have ever seen! "Honey" was found wandering the streets of Buckeye by a police officer. Assessing the 7-8 month old, they found her to be in relatively good health (besides the wound), and possessing a wonderful temperament. The vet staff removed the too-small collar, treated her and closed the wound a few days later. Then Honey was off to heal at with a foster family. A month



HONEY AFTER HER STITCHES, STILL SMILING



HONEY ALL HEALED UP, GETTING A BELLY RUB

later, and Honey is good as new!

Honey is a very friendly and sweet dog. Even with the horrific injury, she never lost her loving spirit.

We are so excited to tell everyone that Honey has found a new forever home with a wonderful family of three. They said

when they saw her story on TV, they started to cry and knew they had to have Honey. She has an overwhelming amount of love to give and we are so happy she now has a great new family to give it to, and to get it from them in return!

## \$10,000 Check Donated to Clean Up the Animals of MCACC

Animals that come into Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCACC) can be pretty grubby looking at times. And this can hinder their adoptability – no matter how sweet they are underneath it all. MCACC can take in up to 200 dogs and cats a day. Some are brought in by citizens who have found the animal wandering the streets. Some are brought in by the MCACC's Field Officers in their trucks, and others are brought in by city officials from non-contracted cities. And the Care Centers accept everyone, contract or not.



MCACC's facilities. As a thank you, the City has donated \$10,000 of city discretionary funds. The funds will go to Friends of Animal Care & Control (FACC's), a non-profit group that supports the special programs MCACC offers. The funds will be placed into a special, restricted account for the grooming of animals who are ready to be adopted.

On September 14th, Surprise Police Chief Daniel Hughes,

Surprise City Council woman Gwyn Foro visited our West Valley Animal Care Center to present the check. What a great gift to help the animals of Maricopa County!

Surprise is not a contracted city with MCACC, but has sent 1100 dogs this year alone to be impounded at

## Adoption Bus Gets Makeover

MCACC's adoption bus has gotten a makeover. Not only does it have a new name, Mobile Pet Adoption Bus, but it has a new look! Painted green and yellow, with dogs and cats all over it, the bus is 32 feet long and can hold up to 28 animals.

The adoption bus hits the road every weekend, stopping at different parts of the valley. The doors open and people are welcomed in to find their new furry companion.

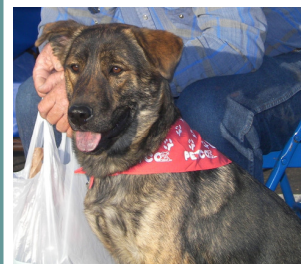
All animals adopted from the bus come with initial vaccinations and have been spayed or neutered. All dogs come with a license that is valid for one year.



To see where the bus will be next, visit us on the web at [www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov)

## Tune in and catch our animals on TV and the radio!

- Every Saturday on Channel 12 at 9:40 a.m.
- Every other Sunday on Channel 15 at 7:10 a.m.
- Every other Thursday on Channel 12 at 1:35 p.m.
- Every last Tuesday of the month on KOOL radio 94.5 FM



One of the lucky dogs to find a new home through MCACC this year.

Page 8



Visit one our Animal Care Centers!

West Valley Care Center    East Valley Care Center  
2323 S. 35th Ave.    2630 W. 8th St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85009    Mesa, AZ 85201

Cat Adoption Center  
5231 N. 35th Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85017

Phone: 602-506-PETS (7387)

E-mail: [ahollis@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:ahollis@mail.maricopa.gov)

We're on the web!

[www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov)

To reduce costs and save money for other programs, like spay/neuter, we are offering an email version of the newsletter. To sign up, please email [ahollis@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:ahollis@mail.maricopa.gov)

MCACC's new approach to delivering animal care and control services reflects the delicate balance that exists between animal welfare and animal control. We strive to be proactive and offer programs to prevent problems before they occur. It is our vision to reduce the dangers and nuisances caused by irresponsible pet ownership and to protect pets from abuse, neglect and homelessness.

Our mission is to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of people and pets in Maricopa County.

MCACC offers a multitude of services to assist you and your pets.

- Adoption of cats and dogs
- Spay/Neuter programs
- Licensing
- Rabies vaccinations
- Lost and found shelter care/stray dog pick up
- Opportunities to volunteer and become foster care givers



**Friends of Animal Care and Control**

Our mission is to end euthanasia of healthy and adoptable dogs and cats in our community by raising funds to support the special programs of Maricopa County Animal Care and Control.

P.O. Box 80739  
Phoenix, AZ 85060

602-626-5073

Visit us at: [www.azfaccs.org](http://www.azfaccs.org)

**Shelter Medicine**

Shelter medicine has come a long way, especially in the last few years. A few residency programs in the specialty have been established, in particular, at UC Davis. Formal training in shelter medicine has been started in about half of the veterinary schools in the United States. The common focus of this training is to promote improved quality of life for shelter animals, increase adoptions, and the eventual elimination of euthanasia as a means of animal control.

Working in a shelter environment is rewarding, challenging, and, unfortunately, sometimes saddening. The demands of the shelter environment

require the use of many disciplines of veterinary medicine. Epidemiology, small animal herd health, sanitation, public health, safety, shelter management, behavior evaluation, cruelty investigations and forensics are just a few of these areas. It also requires two mindsets; individual patient care and large scale population health and welfare. Disease control is a constant struggle with the continuous intake of animals with unknown medical backgrounds. This requires us to implement good science for the benefit of the animals in our care. We strive to provide the best quality care possible in an environment that is often low tech, low touch, and low cost. Reality re-

quires shelter veterinarians to be innovative, and make decisions for the benefit of the many.

By no means is a shelter veterinarian working alone. He is just a member of team focused on doing what is best for all the animals in our care. This team requires many talented and caring individuals. In that vein, we are also grateful to our New Hope partners, FACCs (Friends of Animal Care & Control), our volunteers and financial donors.

Every animal would find a home if there were unlimited resources.